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REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed November 15, 2005, Applicants provide the following. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 18 have been amended without adding new matter. Specifically, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 18 which has been indicated as allowable, and claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 16 which has also been indicated as allowable. Eighteen (18) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-18. Reconsideration of claims 1-18 in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

1. Claims 1-15 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,825,876 (Peterson) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0026321 (Faris et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 6 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 18. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 6 are in condition for allowance at least due to the amendment of the limitations of claim 18 into claims 1 and 6. Further, Applicants have amended claim 11 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 16. Therefore, independent claim 11 is also in condition for allowance at least due to the amendment of the limitations of allowable claim 16 into claim 11.

Furthermore, dependent claims 4-5 and 17 which depend from amended claim 1, claims 7-10 which depend from independent claim 6, and claims 12-15 which depend from independent claim 11 should also be in condition for allowance at least due to their dependence on the amended independent claims.

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Allowable Subject Matter

2. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 16 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 to include all of the limitations of claim 18 and have amended claim 18 to depend from claim 11. Applicants have also amended claim 11 to include all of the limitations of claim 16. Therefore, Applicants have not rewritten claims 16 and 18 into independent form. However, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16 and 18 are in condition for allowance at least due to their dependence from amended claims 11 and 1 respectively, and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,


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